SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR
    INCARCERATED PERSONS TO ASSIST WITH THEIR TRANSITION BACK
    INTO THE COMMUNITY UPON RELEASE.

1   WHEREAS, there is a high rate of recidivism among the
2 former inmate population, due, in large part, to the many
3 problems former inmates are faced with during the reintegration
4 period, including workplace restrictions, housing restrictions,
5 and many informal restrictions resulting from societal prejudice
6 against former offenders; and
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8   WHEREAS, this high rate of recidivism of former prison
9 inmates is very costly to the State and its residents, both
10 economically and socially, in the form of increased criminal
11 activity; and
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13   WHEREAS, the recidivism rate can be dramatically reduced
14 through the implementation of programs to assist these
15 individuals' post-incarceration community integration; and
16
17   WHEREAS, education is the key to success for many former
18 inmates, motivating them to reach their potential, teaching them
19 to accept responsibility for their actions, helping them
20 understand the connection between cause and effect, and how to
21 make changes and better decisions; and
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23   WHEREAS, these educational efforts must be initiated while
24 individuals are incarcerated and must continue throughout the
25 transition period after release to be truly successful in
26 combating recidivism; and
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28   WHEREAS, separate programs and schools for former inmates
29 may provide a more comfortable environment for those wishing to
30 continue their education and training; now, therefore,
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1   BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
2   Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
3   House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4   Education is requested to establish:
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6   (1)   Special schooling or programs to encourage and provide
7   opportunities for inmates exiting prison to obtain a
8   general education development diploma to increase an
9   inmate's opportunities to obtain employment in the
10   community;
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12   (2)   A special school or schools at appropriate locations
13   to accomplish the general education development school
14   initiative;
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16   (3)   A permanent, personalized educational and job
17   preparation plan for parolees and other released
18   persons who express a desire for additional education
19   to prepare for a gainful employment; and
20
21   (4)   A voluntary data tracking system that is developed and
22   maintained in conjunction with the Department of
23   Public Safety to identify successful educational
24   components; and
25
26   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
27   is requested to establish:
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29   (1)   Distance learning programs for inmates still
30   incarcerated to facilitate educational opportunities;
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32   (2)   Programs, developed in conjunction with the Department
33   of Education, to assist inmates with the continuation
34   of educational plans and preparation for gainful
35   employment upon release; and
36
37   (3)   A voluntary data tracking system that is developed and
38   maintained in conjunction with the department of
39   education to identify successful educational
40   components; and
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42   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Education
43   and Public Safety shall submit to the Legislature a report on
44   the establishment of programs and systems requested by this

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1 Concurrent Resolution, including but not limited to data on
2 inmates who continue with educational plans begun while
3 incarcerated, successful and unsuccessful educational
4 components, and any recommendations for successful inmate
5 reintegration into the community, no later than twenty days
6 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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8   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education,
10 the Superintendent of Education, and the Director of Public
11 Safety.
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                    OFFERED BY: _Norman Sakamoto_

                               Marie R. Menya

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                               Clarence K. Nishihara

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